

POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES

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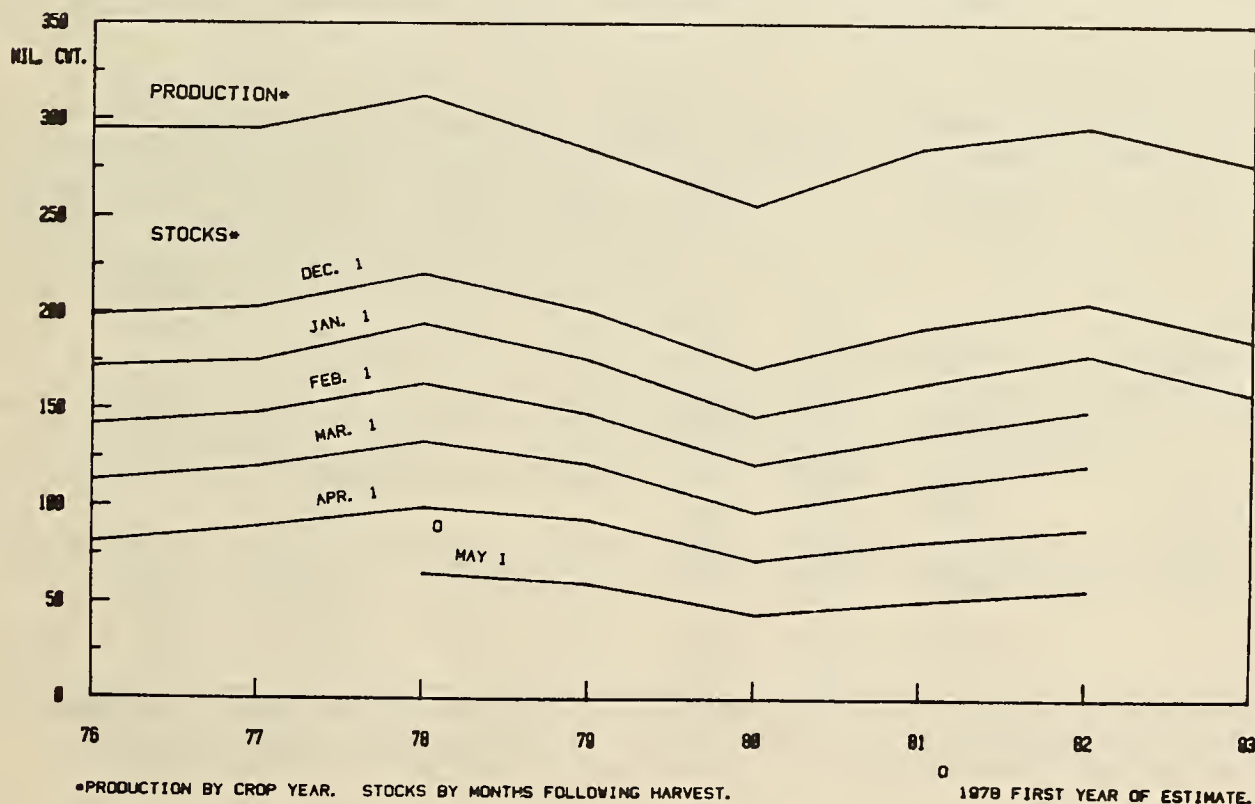
ESTIMATED POTATO STOCKS

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 10 PERCENT

Fall potato stocks totaled 161 million cwt (7.31 million metric tons) on January 1, 1984, for the 15 major storage States. This is down 10 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below the January 1, 1982, stocks. By variety, potatoes were 70 percent russet; 26 percent white; and 4 percent red based on data from the 11 objective yield States. The storage total accounted for 58 percent of fall potato production compared with 60 percent a year ago.

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FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



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 *NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes *
 * and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after *
 * the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally*
 * account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and *
 * loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent. *

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, APRIL 1,
 AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS, AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
1,000 CWT							
1973	247,686	154,890	131,600	105,360	80,460	55,465	
1974	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217	
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	285,060	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	255,691	171,730	146,610	121,565	97,280	72,460	44,446
1981	286,245	192,810	163,680	137,120	111,280	81,870	50,660
1982	296,657	206,175	178,750	149,560	121,540	89,120	56,875
1983	277,769	187,100	161,210				

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1982 AND 1983 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1982-83 1983-84	14,330 15,755	18,645 20,445	23,395	28,535	34,480	39,715	53,395
MAINE 2/	1982-83 1983-84	1,915 1,120	2,800 1,515	3,640	4,400	5,230	6,010	7,450
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1982-83 1983-84	16,840 16,245	20,130 19,920	23,685	27,870	32,100	36,365	45,500
OTHER STATES 3/ 4/	1982-83 1983-84	5,655 4,305	7,135 6,005	8,625	10,220	12,170	13,820	16,405
TOTAL 4/	1982-83 1983-84	38,740 37,425	48,710 47,885	59,345	71,025	83,980	95,910	122,750

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK OR WIS.

2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK AND WIS. 4/ 1982-83 REVISED.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON JANUARY 1, 1983 AND JANUARY 1, 1984

STATE	CROP OF 1982			CROP OF 1983		
	: JAN 1 STOCKS:			: JAN 1 STOCKS:		
	: PRODUCTION	: TOTAL STOCKS:	: AS % OF	: PRODUCTION	: TOTAL STOCKS:	: AS % OF
	: : JAN 1, 1983	: PRODUCTION	:	: : JAN 1, 1984	: PRODUCTION	:
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	7,585	4,200	55	7,790	4,210	54
COLO	12,825	8,250	64	13,200	8,050	61
IDAHO	91,710	61,000	67	83,590	52,500	63
MAINE	27,030	19,600	73	22,090	15,900	72
MICH	8,085	5,400	67	7,425	4,500	61
MINN	11,520	8,100	70	10,313	7,800	76
MONT	1,924	1,780	93	1,800	1,670	93
NEBR	2,147	1,350	63	2,025	1,130	56
N Y - L I	4,995	1,700	34	4,075	1,400	34
- UPSTATE	7,020	3,300	47	5,635	2,600	46
N DAK	17,250	11,500	67	20,460	12,700	62
OHIO	2,328	370	16	1,886	450	24
OREG	21,105	13,200	63	20,710	12,100	58
PA	5,758	3,900	68	4,300	2,200	51
WASH	52,800	25,700	49	53,560	25,600	48
WIS	22,575	9,400	42	18,910	8,400	44
15 STATE TOTAL	296,657	178,750	60	277,769	161,210	58

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1984 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the January 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1964-83 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes, statistically, the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years' preliminary estimates.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 1984 potato stocks estimate is 2.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 161 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent or approximately 3.87 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.2 percent or approximately 6.77 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 4.01 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 5.94 and the smallest was 1.23 million hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
JANUARY 1, 1984, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	11		89	100
IDAHO 1/ 2/			100	100
MAINE		81	19	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	18	49	33	100
N Y 2/ 3/		100		100
N DAK	22	61	17	100
OREG 1/ 2/			100	100
PA 2/		100		100
WASH 1/ 2/			100	100
WIS	7	18	75	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	4	26	70	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

In the three Eastern States, holdings totaled 22.1 million cwt, down 22 percent from a year ago. Maine stocks were estimated at 15.9 million cwt, off 19 percent from last year. New York stocks, at 4.00 million cwt, were down 20 percent, while Pennsylvania stocks, at 2.20 million cwt, were down 44 percent from a year ago.

The six Central States stored 35.0 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1984, down 3 percent from last year. North Dakota storages accounted for 12.7 million cwt, a gain of 10 percent from last year. Ohio, at 450 thousand cwt, was up 22 percent. The other 4 Central States were as follows: Wisconsin, 8.40 million cwt, off 11 percent; Minnesota, 7.80 million cwt, down 4 percent; Michigan, at 4.50 million cwt, was down 17 percent and Nebraska, at 1.13 million cwt, was down 16 percent.

The six Western States potato stocks were estimated at 104 million cwt, down 9 percent from last January. Idaho, at 52.5 million cwt stored, declined 14 percent. Washington holdings, at 25.6 million cwt, were down fractionally; while Oregon cellars, containing 12.1 million cwt, dipped 8 percent from a year ago. Colorado stocks, at 8.05 million cwt, were 2 percent less than last year; but California holdings, at 4.21 million cwt, were up slightly.

Disappearance of potatoes in the 15 stocks States from the first of the season to January 1 totaled 117 million cwt this year, 1 percent below last year's pace and 5 percent short of 2 years ago. This includes 15.9 million cwt of shrinkage, dumped and lost this season compared with 20.0 million during the same period last year.

Processing to January 1 was down 2 percent from a year earlier, as the 8 major States accounted for 47.9 million cwt this year compared with 48.7 million cwt last year.



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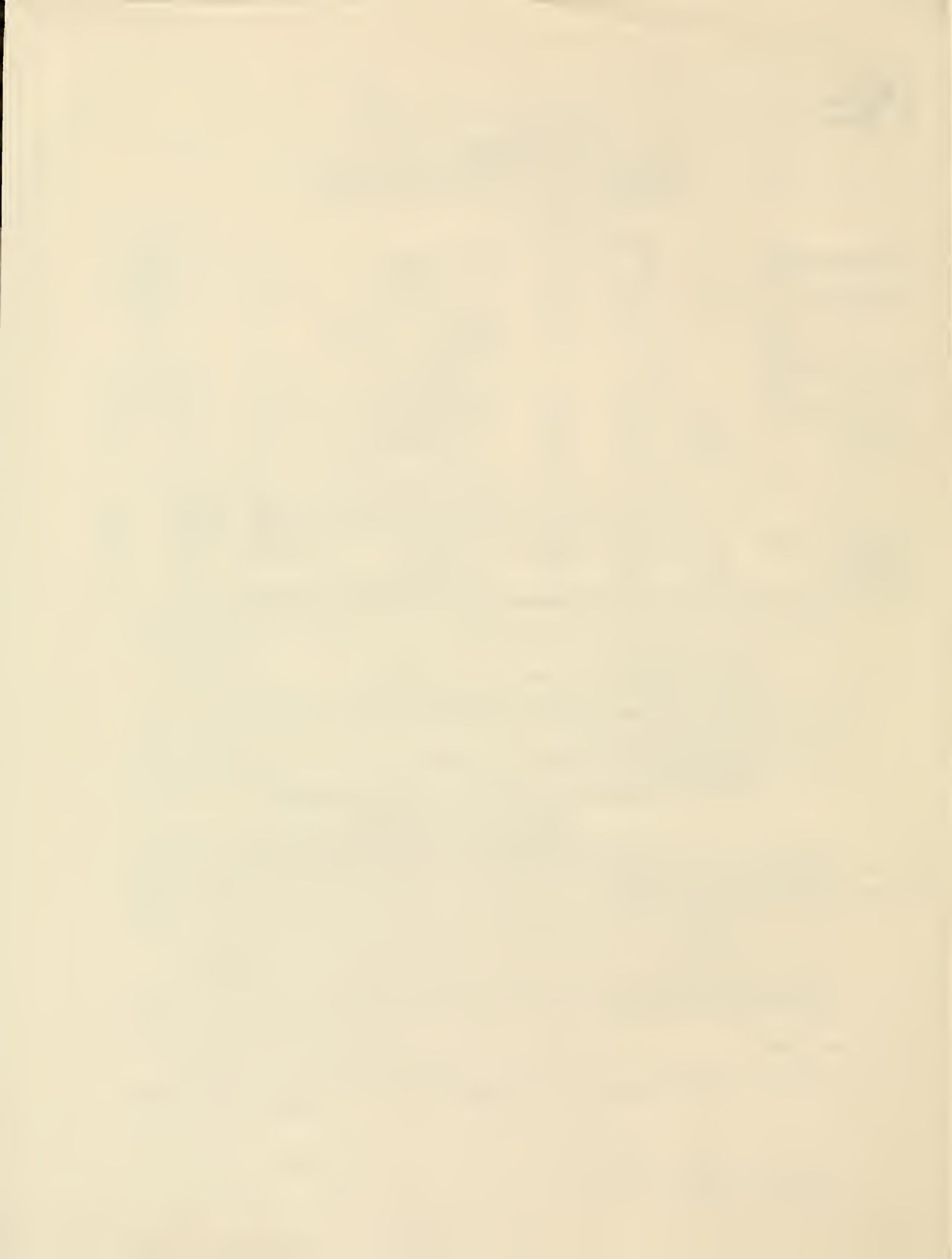
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